CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) A vaccine comprising:

a live, replication-competent recombinant vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) particle comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding a viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF) glycoprotein selected from the group consisting of a glycoprotein from Lassa virus; a glycoprotein from Marburg virus; and a glycoprotein from Ebola virus, inserted into the viral genome wherein the foreign glycoprotein has replaced the native VSV glycoprotein and only the VHF glycoprotein is expressed on the surface of the recombinant VSV particle, wherein said recombinant VSV particle is infectious.

2. (previously presented) The vaccine according to claim 1 wherein the viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF) glycoprotein is an immunogenic fragment.

3. cancelled

4. cancelled.

5. (previously presented) The vaccine according to claim 1 wherein the first gene of the recombinant VSV codes for the VHF glycoprotein.

6. cancelled.

7. cancelled

8. cancelled

9. cancelled

10. cancelled

11. cancelled

12. cancelled

13. (currently amended) A method of vaccinating an individual comprising:

administering to an individual a live, replication competent recombinant vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) particle comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding a viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF) glycoprotein selected from the group consisting of a glycoprotein from Lassa virus; a glycoprotein from Marburg virus; and a glycoprotein from Ebola virus, inserted into the viral genome wherein the foreign glycoprotein has replaced the native VSV glycoprotein and only the VHF glycoprotein is expressed on

the surface of the recombinant VSV particle, wherein said recombinant VSV particle is infectious and simulates infection by said VHF virus but does not cause disease or symptoms associated with said VHF.

14. (previously presented) The method according to claim 13 wherein the viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF) glycoprotein is an immunogenic fragment.

15. cancelled

16. cancelled

17. (previously presented) The method according to claim 13 wherein the first gene of the recombinant VSV codes for the VHF glycoprotein.

18. cancelled

19. (original) The method according to claim 13 wherein the particle is administered orally.

20. (original) The method according to claim 13 wherein the particle is administered intranasally.

21. (currently amended) A method of preparing a pharmaceutical composition for passive immunization of an individual in need of immunization comprising:

administering to an animal a live, replication competent recombinant vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) particle comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding a viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF) glycoprotein selected from the group consisting of a glycoprotein from Lassa virus; a glycoprotein from Marburg virus; and a glycoprotein from Ebola virus, inserted into the viral genome wherein the foreign glycoprotein has replaced the native VSV glycoprotein and only the VHF glycoprotein is expressed on the surface of the recombinant VSV particle, wherein said recombinant VSV particle is infectious and simulates infection by said VHF virus but does not cause disease or symptoms associated with said VHF;

harvesting antibodies from said animal; and

mixing said antibodies with a suitable excipient or carrier, thereby forming a pharmaceutical composition.

22. (previously presented) The method according to claim 21 wherein the viral

hemorrhagic fever (VHF) glycoprotein is an immunogenic fragment.

23. cancelled

24. cancelled

25. (previously presented) The method according to claim 21 wherein the first gene of the recombinant VSV codes for the VHF glycoprotein.

26. cancelled

27. (original) The method according to claim 21 wherein the particle is administered orally.

28. (original) The method according to claim 21 wherein the particle is administered intranasally.

29. canceled

30. cancelled

31. cancelled

REMARKS:

A replacement oath/declaration is enclosed herewith.

As the examiner can see, the specification has been corrected so that only the reference to prior applications submitted on March 13, 2007 is present.

Claim 15 has been cancelled.

As the examiner can see, the claims have been amended so as to be directed to Ebola, Marburg and Lassa constructs, as discussed below.

Claims 1-3, 5, 13-15, 17, 19-23, 25 and 27-31 were rejected under 35 USC 112 as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

Specifically, it is noted that the office action states that 'the guidance provided in the specification is limited to VSV-Ebola, Lassa and Marburg constructs'. The office action further states that 'Applicant is invited to submit data in a declaration for further consideration as to the enablement of Ebola and Marburg vaccines'.

In response, in lieu of submitting an affidavit, Applicant has enclosed a number of letters and articles from refereed journals authored by the inventors and their research groups which address this issue.

Specifically, in a letter to Nature Medicine (Jones et al., 2005, Nature Medicine 11: 786-790), it is shown that a single intramuscular injection of an Ebola virus vaccine or Marburg virus vaccine prepared according to the invention elicited completely protective immune responses in nonhuman primates'.

Similarly, in an article published in the Lancet (Daddario-DiCaprio et al., 2006, Lancet 367: 1399-1404) describes the use of the constructs of the invention as a post-exposure treatment for Marburg virus in a rhesus macaque model.